

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FY2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

<b>Legal Applicant Name: Graceland University</b>	<b>Application ID: 12AC133420</b>
<b>Program Name: AmeriCorps Youth Launch</b>	

*For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.*

**Reviewers' Summary Comments:**

- The applicant clearly identifies and provides local as well as national statistical data that supports the compelling community need of middle and high school students in the target communities.
- The applicant provides local, state, national and statistical data that reveals why the target community was selected.
- The applicant describes in detail how seven full-time Members, six half-time Members and twelve summer quarter-time Members (25 Members) will mobilize 450 volunteers to academic engagement through mentoring, service-learning, 35 cultural/enrichment opportunity programs, and building 'developmental assets'.
- The applicant clearly defines and aligns the roles and activities of each Member based on their slot as well as site assignment.
- The applicant addresses the added value of Members in providing individualized attention to meet students' unique challenges and matching youth with mentors (volunteers).
- The applicant clearly describes a comprehensive plan to generate volunteers. Members are responsible for recruiting and training 450 volunteers "(75 volunteers x 6 counties)"
- The applicant incorporates structured activities for Members to experience community, civic opportunities and reflection on the impacts of these experiences.
- The applicant provides monthly trainings for all Members in the program (Members are at different sites) as well as Members in AmeriCorps statewide programs.
- To promote AmeriCorps members awareness in the community, the applicant provides Members with AmeriCorps gear and displays AmeriCorps posters as well as emblems at each site.

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- Statistical data was utilized to support youth struggling with educational barriers.
- The applicant clearly defines the interventions carried out by Members and volunteers that involve evidence-based “Search Institute asset building activities and enrichment programs.”
- The extensive training and supervision, as well as Members’ mobilizing volunteers, makes Members well suited to deliver the intervention activities.
- The applicant clearly explains anticipated outcomes of academic engagement and educational success and links them to all three elements.
- The applicant organization provides clear evidence of the targeted communities’ need.
- The applicant clearly details why the need of education in rural south Central Iowa was chosen.
- The applicant organization clearly addresses why AmeriCorps members are a highly effective means to solve the identified community need as well as adding unique value.
- The applicant organization gives detailed examples of specific proposed Member activities.
- The 40 asset framework used by the applicant organization provides an evidence-based framework for the proposed program. Research consistently shows that when youth are exposed to this framework the positive influence on student achievement is greater than other demographic factors and school reform strategies.
- The applicant organization clearly lays out a powerful service experience that increases community impact.
- The applicant describes strong involvement of the AmeriCorps volunteers in recruitment.
- The applicant does a good job of linking the four major elements.